

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 NAS-01 L-03 PA-01 HA-05 /046 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SEP:DMCRAMER:MT
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SEP:RGMORRIS
EUR/SOV:RWINDSOR
NSF/JCSS:APARDEE (SUBSTANCE)

-----040311 070721Z /21

R 062333Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: CORROSION: STAEHLE LETTER
TO KOLOTYRKIN (0.13)

1. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, QUOTED BELOW IS TEXT OF
LETTER SENT REGISTERED INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO KOLOTYRKIN
WITH COPY TO KIRILLIN BY STAEHLE UNCLEARED BY SECRETARIAT:

2. DEAR PROFESSOR KOLOTYRKIN: 29 JUNE 1978

AS YOU KNOW, THE TREATMENT OF DISSIDENT SCIENTISTS IN THE
SOVIET UNION HAS AROUSED GREAT CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES
AS WELL AS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.
THUS, WHEN OUR CORROSION WORKING GROUP READ YOUR STRONGLY
WORDED LETTER CONDEMNING (SIC) ORLOV IN THE MAY 20, 1978
ISSUE OF MOSCOVSKAYA PRAVDA WE WERE NATURALLY CONCERNED
THAT YOUR PUBLICLY STATED POSITION WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE
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EFFECTIVENESS OF FUTURE INTERACTIONS OF THE US-USSR
CORROSION WORKING GROUP.

WE DO NOT AGREE THAT SCIENTISTS SHOULD BE TREATED SO
HARSHLY, AS WAS ORLOV, FOR SPEAKING OUT ON MATTERS OF
PUBLIC CONCERN. FURTHER, ORLOV WAS SPECIFICALLY
ADDRESSING A MATTER WHICH AFFECTS THE FREEDOM OF INTER-

CHANGE AMONG COUNTRIES--A THEME WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT

CORNERSTONE OF THE S&T AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION ORLOV'S "CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES" INVOLVED NEITHER A VIOLENT CRIME NOR DID HE ADVOCATE OVERTHROW OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM. HE WAS ADVOCATING ADHERENCE TO PART OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH PROMOTES THE EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS TO WHICH THE SOVIET UNION WAS A VOLUNTARY SIGNATORY.

THE SUBJECT OF CORROSION IS AN IMPORTANT ONE TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. YOU AND I HAVE WORKED HARD TO DEVELOP A SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAM FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. I AM NOW FACED WITH A SERIOUS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WISH TO CONTINUE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR NOW, THE U.S. SIDE WILL NOT PURSUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORROSION WORKING GROUP, AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES WILL AWAIT YOUR INITIATIVES.

SINCERELY,

SIGNATURE
R.W. STAEHLE

CC: V.A. KIRILLIN
RWS:CAD

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3. IN LETTER TO CRAMER OF OES TRANSMITTING COPY, STAEHLE SAID HE SENT HIS LETTER AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND THAT QUOTE IT IS NOT A GOVERNMENT LETTER END QUOTE, IN SPITE OF FACT THAT HE SAYS IN FINAL SENTENCE OF LETTER THAT THE US SIDE WILL NOT PURSUE WORK ON CORROSION.

4. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT TRANSMIT LETTER BUT SHOULD INFORM AYKAZYAN THAT SUCH A LETTER IS ON THE WAY. THIS WILL EMPHASIZE FACT THAT IT IS A PRIVATE LETTER. ALSO SAY USDEL TO SIXTH JCM WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE LETTER IF SOVIET SIDE WISHES.

5. FYI: COPY BY STAEHLE TO KIRILLIN WAS AGAINST DR. PRESS'S EXPRESS WISH THAT COMMISSION BUSINESS BE DISCUSSED WITH KIRILLIN BY PRESS ONLY. END FYI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE171000
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DMCRAMER:MT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780278-1092
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780788/aaaacwqf.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c77e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2095598
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: CORROSION: STAEHLE LETTER TO KOLOTYRKIN (0.13)
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c77e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014